

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Notice of Allowance Dated:
Robert H. Halstead, Jr. et al.) October 19, 2007
Application No.: 09/759,697)
Filed: January 12, 2001) Confirmation No. 2648
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD) Group Art Unit: 2191
)
) Examiner: Mary J. Steelman
) OF OPTIONS)

Mail Stop Issue Fee

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicant received a Notice of Allowability and Notice of Allowance and Fee(s)

Due dated October 19, 2007. The issue fee is being filed herewith.

In the Notice of Allowability, in paragraphs 3-4, the Examiner provided a statement of reasons for allowance. Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's asserted reasons why the claims patentably distinguish from the prior art. For example, Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's apparent assertion that the listed features are the only reason the claims are allowable over the prior art. Instead, Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-26, and 29-38 are patentably distinguishable from the prior art at least because the prior art, either alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the recitations therein.

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 09612.1028-01000

The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance might be construed to contain characterizations of the claims and the prior art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter these Comments and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 7, 2008

By: 
Maura K. Moran
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